

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The following amendments were made to the specification:

On page 7, lines 18, "side-b-side" was changed to -side-by-side-.

In line 21, "ad" was changed to -and-.

On page 8, line 18, "a" was deleted.

On page 9, lines 22, 23 the phrase "selves are 144 sewn into place" was changed to "guides 144 are sewn into place".

On page 10, line 22, "and" was changed to -and-.

In line 4 of the abstract, the phrase ", is disclosed and claimed" was deleted.

The following amendments were made to the claims:

In claim 1, line 5, the word -and- was inserted after "assemblies"

In line 7, -at least one- was inserted after "the".

In lines 28, 34 (two occurrences), -at least one- was inserted before each occurrence of "bladder".

In line 27, "assembly" was changed to -assemblies-.

In claim 3, line 13, "patterns" was changed to -pattern-.

In line 21, "said abutments" was deleted. The examiner stated that "said abutments" lacked antecedent basis. However, line 11 specifically identifies "and abutting one another". Applicant believes this provides adequate antecedent basis for "said abutments" in line 21. Since the Examiner closed prosecution on the merits, applicant's deletion of the "said abutments" is not intended to limit the scope of the claim. Rather, the specification and drawings clearly indicate that the stitching between the straps in the area where the straps abut one another is covered by the claims.

In claim 4, line 9, "lay" was changed to -lie-.

In line 11, "at said abutments" was deleted.

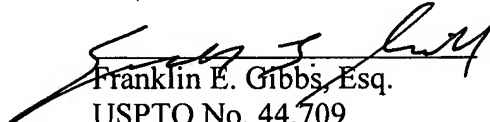
Appl. No. 10/722,904  
Amdt. Dated June 14, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of June 8, 2006

Applicant appreciates the examiner's assistance in advancing this application toward issuance. Applicant believes the application is now in a condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Applicant's attorney can be of any further assistance, please call the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

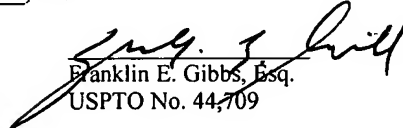
Dated: 6-14-2006

  
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#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as required for Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: June 14, 2006

Dated: 6-14-06

  
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